Call for Applications 2028

AMF Award

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ASIAN MAYORS FORUM (AMF)

For urban governance, resilience, Perspective, and cooperation

Crisis Management
Prevention, response & resilience

Urban Perspective
Trends, scenarios & readiness

Integration & Cooperation
Networks, partnership & exchange

Invitation to Participate

The Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) invites cities, municipalities, and urban administrations across Asia to submit their successful policies, projects, and practices for the inaugural edition of the AMF Award.

The Award recognizes inspiring urban solutions in three strategic domains — Crisis Management, Urban Perspective, and Integration & Cooperation — and is open to all cities and urban regions in Asia, free of charge and regardless of AMF membership.

Applying to the Award implies full acceptance of these guidelines.

Contents

1 About the Award 3

2 Organizers & Governance 3

3 Theme & Thematic Domains 4

4 Eligibility 4

5 Timeline 5

6 How to Apply 5

7 Evaluation Criteria 6

8 Evaluation Process 7

9 Awards & Benefits 7

10 Prize Ceremony 9

11 Rights, Data & Confidentiality 9

12 Questions & Contact 10

1 About the Award

About AMF

The Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) is an international non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to expanding and enhancing the relations and cooperation between mayors and city managers in Asia. AMF aims to help cities develop urban and public diplomacy, knowledge exchange, technical know-how and experiences of urban management, as well as specialized cooperation between members and also strengthen the integration between Asian cities, mayors and citizens toward a better life.

AMF was created by the initiative of Tehran Municipality and with the support of the Asian Governments and parliaments, and its first official meeting, conducted in 2008, coincided with the inauguration of Milad Tower in Tehran, hosted by Tehran Municipality, with the attendance of more than 100 mayors and urban managers.

Why this Award

Asian cities face growing and interconnected pressures — from climate-related hazards and rapid urbanization to digital transformation — and are also the source of many of the most practical local solutions. The Award exists to make those solutions visible, comparable, and transferable across the region.

The AMF Awar d identifies, showcases, and honors successful initiatives, policies, projects, and practices by Asian cities and local governments in urban governance and in improving citizens' quality of life. The Award is implemented fully in accordance with the Statutes of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF). It is held once every three years. This call is for the inaugural edition, 2028.

Theme

Resilient, forward-looking, and connected cities for Asia

Objectives

- Encourage Asian cities to develop and implement innovative policies, projects, and practices.
- Identify and showcase successful examples of urban management and governance.
- Improve citizens' quality of life and help address major social, economic, environmental, and governance challenges.
- Strengthen cooperation, experience-sharing, and mutual learning among Asian cities.
- Promote urban resilience and preparedness for crises and future change.
- Strengthen public participation through the People's Choice Award.

2 Organizers & Governance

Organizers

The Award is organized by the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) through its Secretariat.

Secretariat

The Secretariat coordinates the call, receives and screens applications, communicates with applicants, supports the Technical Committee and the Jury, manages the public vote, and organizes the ceremony.

Evaluation bodies

Body	Role and composition
Technical Committee	An independent regional committee of up to 12 members with relevant expertise and geographic balance. It reviews eligible applications and selects up to 15 finalists.
Jury	An independent jury of five distinguished figures. It evaluates the finalists and decides the winners.

Members of both bodies will be announced on the Award website by 15 December 2027. Any member with a professional, institutional, financial, or personal relationship to an initiative must declare it and withdraw from that initiative's evaluation. Entities directly affiliated with the organizing bodies are not eligible to apply.

3 Theme & Thematic Domains

Every initiative must have a clear and defensible connection to at least one of the three domains below. Applicants select one primary domain for each initiative, and the same initiative may not be submitted in more than one domain. Cities and other eligible applicants may submit different initiatives in more than one domain, provided each initiative meets the eligibility criteria and has a clear connection to its domain.

Crisis Management	Urban Perspective	Integration & Cooperation
Prevention, response & resilience	*Trends, scenarios & readiness*	*Networks, partnership & exchange*

A. Crisis Management

Initiatives on prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience against urban crises and hazards.

Sample topics and indicators: natural or human-made disaster management, continuity of urban services, early warning and rapid response, infrastructure resilience, vulnerability reduction, use of technology and data, and community participation.

B. Urban Perspective (Cities of Tomorrow)

Initiatives that prepare the city for the future by identifying trends, drivers, opportunities, threats, and uncertainties.

Sample topics and indicators: scenario planning, trend analysis, long-term planning, climate change, demographic and economic shifts, digital transformation, data, and forward-looking decision-making.

C. Integration & Cooperation

Initiatives that strengthen cooperation among cities, public institutions, the private sector, universities, civil society, and citizens.

Sample topics and indicators: inter-city and international cooperation, urban networking, public–private partnership, citizen participation, and knowledge and experience exchange.

> Connected Cities: this domain places particular emphasis on inter-city and international networking.

Domains guide the choice of initiatives; they do not change the evaluation criteria in Section 7 and do not create quotas for winners.

4 Eligibility

Who may apply

- City and municipal governments and urban regional authorities located in Asia.
- Departments or divisions of a city government may apply on behalf of the city.

What may be submitted

- A genuine policy, project, initiative, or management practice — not a concept or proposal only.
- It must address a significant social, economic, environmental, or governance issue.

- It must be ongoing, or completed within the past three years. Initiatives that have not yet been implemented are not eligible.
- Applicants must provide evidence or indicators of impact, results, or significant change.
- An initiative not selected in one cycle may be resubmitted in a later cycle, provided new evidence or indicators are presented and all criteria, including the timeframe, are met.

Submission limits

- Each city may submit as many initiatives as it wishes across all domains, including initiatives from different departments of the same city.
- Each initiative may be submitted in one domain only.

> **Good to know**
>
> Participation is free and does not require AMF membership.
>
> The official language of the application is English. Supporting documents may be in the local language with an English translation or summary.

5 Timeline

Milestone	Date
Call published; guidelines available for download	31 October 2026
Registration opens (application portal)	1 November 2026
Submission deadline	31 August 2027, [GMT +3:30]
Initial screening and Technical Committee review	September – October 2027
Public voting opens (People's Choice Award)	15 September-31 October 2027
Preliminary finalists announced	31 October 2027
Appeals against the preliminary list	1-15 November 2027
Final finalists announced	15 December 2027
Winners announced and award ceremony	To be announced

The timeline may change under certain circumstances. Updates will be published on [website].

6 How to Apply

Step	Action	Details
1	Complete the application form	Answer the qualitative and quantitative questions online. The form can be edited until the deadline.
2	Upload supporting documents	Accepted formats: PDF, DOC(X), XLSX, JPG, and links to videos.
3	Submit	Submit before the deadline. A confirmation email is sent after submission.

Required content

- Introduction of the submitting city and, where relevant, the department responsible.
- Description of the problem, objectives, and rationale for the intervention.
- Description of the policy, project, initiative, or practice and how it was implemented.

- Evidence and indicators of results and impact.
- Statistical and visual documentation, reports, and other verifiable records.
- Lessons learned and the potential for use or replication by other cities.
- At least one independent referee, nominated as described below.

Independent referee

Applicants must nominate at least one independent referee with relevant professional or technical expertise who can independently verify the information, achievements, and results presented in the application. The referee should have sufficient knowledge of the initiative or access to reliable information and evidence to assess the accuracy of the applicant's claims.

Applicants must provide the referee's full name, professional title, institutional affiliation, official contact details, and a brief explanation of their relationship to the initiative and their capacity to verify the submitted information. The referee should not have a direct conflict of interest in the evaluation of the application.

The Secretariat may contact the nominated referee to verify specific claims, request clarification, or obtain additional supporting information. Applicants are responsible for obtaining the referee's consent before submitting their contact details.

Before you submit

✓ The initiative is ongoing or was completed within the last three years.

✓ One primary domain is selected.

✓ Evidence and indicators of results are included.

✓ A referee has been named and has given consent.

✓ All content is in English, or has an English translation or summary.

✓ Confidential information, if any, has been flagged in writing (see Section 11).

7 Evaluation Criteria

Initiatives are assessed against four criteria of equal weight. Each criterion is scored out of 25, for a total of 100.

Criterion	Weight	What assessors look for
Innovation	25%	• Originality of the approach • Creative use of tools, technology, data, or partnerships • Fit between the solution and the problem
Effectiveness	25%	• Achievement of the stated objectives • Quality of evidence and indicators • Efficiency and sustainability of the results
Transferability	25%	• Clarity of the lessons learned • Adaptability to other contexts and resource levels • Documentation that enables replication
Significance	25%	• Importance of the problem addressed • Scale and reach of the impact, including vulnerable groups • Relevance to the public interest and the chosen domain

Final scores are the average of all assessors' scores. Ties are resolved by tie-break rule.

8 Evaluation Process

1. Initial screening

The Secretariat checks eligibility and completeness. It may ask applicants for clarification or additional information within 15 days, and may add publicly available data for analysis.

2. Technical Committee review

The Technical Committee scores all eligible applications against the four criteria, based on the written submissions, and selects up to 15 finalists. For the finalists, the Secretariat contacts the named referees to verify the main claims and, where feasible, may arrange an online or on-site check for the leading initiatives.

> **Note on finalists**
> A total of up to 15 initiatives will be shortlisted as finalists across the three thematic domains. The number of finalists from each domain is not fixed or necessarily equal: it depends on the quality, merit, and eligibility of the submitted initiatives, as assessed by the Technical Committee. There is no requirement to select five finalists from each domain.

3. Final jury evaluation

The Jury evaluates the finalists using the same four criteria and decides the winners. It may invite finalist representatives to give a short presentation, which complements the written evaluation.

Decisions and rights of the organizers

- The Jury may select fewer than five winners, or none, if the minimum quality standard is not met.
- If an exceptional number of strong applications is received, the organizers may add recognitions in consultation with the Jury.
- The organizers may disqualify an application or revoke an award where eligibility requirements are not met, key information is knowingly false or misleading, or the application is likely to damage the reputation of the Award.
- The Jury's decisions are final.

> **Administrative appeals**
> Applicants who believe they encountered an administrative error during screening or the eligibility review may submit a written appeal to the Secretariat within 14 days of the results announcement. The Secretariat will reply in writing within 30 days. Appeals about the substantive merit or scoring of an application are not accepted.

9 Awards & Benefits

Main awards

Main awards are granted to up to five outstanding initiatives. There is no fixed quota per domain; the Jury distributes the awards according to the quality of the initiatives. Two further recognitions are described below: the People's Choice Award and the Mayor of Excellence Award.

- Official trophy and certificate.
- Showcase of the initiative through AMF's website, publications, press releases, and media channels.
- Documentation of the initiative as a case study to share lessons among Asian cities.

> Finalists that are not among the winners or the People's Choice winner receive a "Certificate of Finalist Merit
>
> – AMF Award."

People's Choice Award

- All eligible initiatives that pass the Secretariat's initial screening are listed for public voting through the Award's official platform.
- Voting period: 15 September 2027 – 31 October 2027 (opens at 00:00 and closes at 23:59, [GMT +3:30]). The voting rules are set out below.
- The winner is the initiative with the most valid votes, confirmed by the Secretariat after verification.
- The People's Choice winner receives a separate certificate. The public vote is independent of the Jury's scoring and does not count toward the five main awards.

Voting rules

1. Who may vote: voting is open to the general public in any country.
2. Registration: each voter registers with one valid email address and confirms it through a one-time link or code. One person may hold one account only.
3. Number of votes: each voter has up to three votes. Each vote must go to a different initiative, so a voter cannot vote for the same initiative twice. A vote cannot be changed or withdrawn once cast.
4. Own initiative: voters may not vote for an initiative submitted by their own city or organization.
5. Fair campaigning: applicants may share the voting link and promote their initiative through their normal communication channels. Offering payment, gifts, or other incentives for votes, buying or selling votes, using automated tools or fake accounts, and any other manipulation are prohibited.
6. Verification: the Secretariat monitors the vote. It may remove duplicate, automated, or otherwise invalid votes, and may hold votes from suspicious activity until they are reviewed.
7. Consequences: an initiative found to have benefited from deliberate manipulation may be removed from the People's Choice Award or disqualified.
8. Counts and results: vote counts are not displayed while voting is open. The Secretariat confirms the final result after verification and its decision is final. A tie is decided by the Jury.

Mayor of Excellence Award

The Mayor of Excellence Award recognizes outstanding leadership and commitment to advancing effective urban governance, improving citizens' quality of life, and promoting sustainable and resilient cities across Asia. The award highlights the role of mayors in fostering innovation, addressing urban challenges, strengthening cooperation, and developing forward-looking policies and initiatives that contribute to the long-term development of their cities.

This recognition reflects the broader objectives of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF), particularly its commitment to sharing successful urban experiences, encouraging mutual learning, and promoting cooperation among Asian cities.

Who can be recognized

- The nominee must be the serving mayor, or the equivalent head of the executive, of a city, municipality, or urban regional authority in Asia at the time of nomination.
- The nominee must have given consent to the nomination.
- Mayors who are members of the Technical Committee or the Jury, or who serve in the Secretariat, are not eligible.
- One Mayor of Excellence is recognized in each edition. The Jury may decide not to award it if no nominee meets the required standard.

How mayors are nominated

- Nominations open with registration on 1 November 2026 and close with the submission deadline on 31 August 2027.
- A mayor may be nominated by their own city administration, by another city government, or by a university, civil society organization, or international organization. Self-nomination is accepted.
- Nominations are submitted through a separate nomination form on the Award portal. The form includes: the nominee's name, city, and term of office; a statement on the nominee's leadership; three to five documented achievements with evidence of results; at least one letter of support; and at least one independent referee, as described in Section 6.

- Nominating a mayor does not require submitting an initiative, and a city that submits an initiative is not required to nominate its mayor.

Criteria

Criterion	What the Jury looks for
Vision and leadership	• A clear, forward-looking vision for the city • Ability to mobilize institutions, staff, and citizens • Decisions taken in difficult circumstances
Impact on citizens	• Measurable improvement in quality of life • Attention to vulnerable and underserved groups • Citizen participation and public trust
Innovation and resilience	• New approaches to governance or service delivery • Preparedness for crises and long-term change
Cooperation and regional contribution	• Partnerships with other cities, institutions, and sectors • Sharing of experience that others can learn from

The four criteria carry equal weight. Evidence is judged on documented results, not on the nominee's profile or the size of the city.

How the winner is selected

- The Secretariat checks eligibility and completeness of each nomination.
- The Technical Committee reviews the nominations against the four criteria and prepares a shortlist of up to five nominees. The Secretariat contacts the named referees to verify the main claims.
- The Jury evaluates the shortlist and selects the Mayor of Excellence. Jury members with any relationship to a nominee must declare it and withdraw from that decision. The Jury's decision is final.
- The winner is announced at the award ceremony.

> **Relationship to the other awards**
> The Mayor of Excellence Award is independent of the five main awards and the People's Choice Award. It is judged on the mayor's leadership, not on a single initiative, and it does not count toward the five main awards.

Recognition

- Official trophy and certificate, presented at the award ceremony.
- Profile of the mayor and the city in AMF's website, publications, and media channels.

10 Prize Ceremony

The ceremony will be announced.

- Winners are strongly encouraged to be represented by the mayor or the highest-level representative available.
- Program: key messages from the organizers, presentation of the awards and short presentations by winners.
- Winners may be asked to provide a short video presenting their initiative. The same terms as in Section 11 apply.

11 Rights, Data & Confidentiality

Responsibility of applicants

The applicant is fully responsible for the information and materials submitted, including any use of third-party intellectual property, copyright, and image rights. The organizers are not liable for violations or inaccurate information provided by applicants.

Use and publication of content

By applying, the applicant grants the Secretariat a non-exclusive license to use the submitted text, images, statistics, and other content, in full or in summary, for the Award website, AMF's online resources, publications, documentation, and promotion. Applications may be stored in a best-practice repository. This license does not transfer ownership of the initiative or its materials, and the source (city or institution) will be credited in every use.

Confidential information

Information the applicant does not want made public must be flagged in writing to [email] when submitting the application.

Accuracy of information

If it is found, after results are announced or an award is granted, that key information was knowingly false or misleading, the title, trophy, and certificate may be revoked.

12 Questions & Contact

Contact the Secretariat

Email
Website
LinkedIn
Instagram
Telegram